

Where do I take any unused medicines that contain a sharp and / or a filled sharps bin?

Disposal of the sharps box is now provided by a company called Medisort to patients living in Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge. To arrange for a collection (free of charge) from your home call:
0330 122 4220

How can I get a new sharps bin?

You can get a new sharps bin by making a request to your GP Practice who will issue you with a prescription. You can take this prescription to your usual Pharmacy who will order and supply you with a sharps bin.

What size sharps bin do I need?

A **1 litre sharps bin** is most suitable for those who are testing their blood glucose and have **lancets** or a **short course of injections** to dispose of. A **5 litre sharps bin** is most suitable for those who have **lancets, insulin pen needles, syringes and insulin pump tubing & cannulas** to dispose of.

Sharps Disposal

Patient Information Leaflet



You have been given a sharps bin for you to safely dispose of used needles, syringes, lancets called 'sharps' in your home.

This leaflet contains helpful hints on how you can do this safely.

It is your responsibility to safely dispose of sharps and your sharps

Produced with thanks to Health Service Executive (HSE)

KEEP SHARPS BOX & SHARPS OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN

Why do I need a Sharps bin?

You need to dispose (get rid) of your used needles, syringes and lancets (called 'sharps') in a sharps bin as they can injure people and carry infections.



Sharps Bins

Sharps bins are specially designed yellow containers. You can get small and large sharps bins. The large bins come with a lid that **must** be attached securely before using the bin.

Do

Do only use a sharps bin to get rid of your 'sharps' which include:

- needles,
- syringes,
- lancets,
- insulin pump tubing,
- cannulas & cannula insertion devices,
- used blood thinning medicines e.g. Enoxaparin syringes,
- used diabetes medicines e.g. Glucagon Like Peptide -1 pens (GLP-1)



Do use a needle clipper - if recommended by a health professional. (Needle clippers are available on prescription.)

Do keep sharps bins in a safe place and out of reach of children & pets.

Do store the sharps bins in a cupboard and keep away from food.

Do use the temporary closure on the lid after each use, as this prevents the contents spilling when it is not in use.

Do get a sharps bin from your Vet if you need one to dispose of sharps used in pet care.

Don't



Don't put your used needles, syringes and lancets in any other container such as drinks cans or used plastic food containers.

Don't put any other waste in the sharps bin i.e.

- cotton wool balls,
- test strips,
- finished insulin pen devices. In general, these can be disposed of as household waste provided that the needle has been removed.

Don't put the sharps bin out with your household waste.

Don't try to remove a needle or lancet from the sharps bin.

Don't force sharps into a full bin by pushing down with your hands.

Don't fill the sharps bin so that it is too heavy to lift.

Don't keep your sharps bins in use for longer than 3 months. It should be exchanged regardless of how full it is.

Don't fill the container past the dotted black fill line.



When the sharps bin reaches the dotted black fill line.



1. Lock

Close the opening to permanent closure.

2. Complete the Label

Write your GP Practice, your name, and date started.



CONTAMINATED	
IDENTIFICATION RECORD	
HOSPITAL	
WARD/CLINIC	
STARTED BY	DATE
LOOKED BY	DATE
DISPOSED OF BY	DATE